Per capita expenditure of farmers

†1760.SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that per capita monthly expenditure of the families of farmers of rural areas in the country was Rs. 503/- in 2003;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this amount is Rs. 75/- more than the criteria of poverty Iine;

(d) if not, the criteria fixed for poverty line; and

(e) the average number of the families living below the poverty line in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the results of the Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers conducted by NSSO (59th round, Jan-Dec, 2003)-compiled in the Report No. 495- the average monthly per capita total consumption expenditure of a farmer household at the national level was Rs. 502.83.

(c) No, Sir. The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and State level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The rural poverty line at the national level estimated from the latest available data of such Survey (NSS 55th round, 1999-2000) is Rs. 327.56

The average monthly total consumption expenditure of farmers of Rs. 502.83 deflated to 1999-2000 prices works out to Rs. 487.97. Therefore, the difference between the two is Rs. 160.41 at 1999-2000 price.

(d) Planning Commission uses per capita consumption expenditure as the criteria to determine the poverty line.

The main factors, which are taken into consideration in arriving at the figure of poverty line, are based on the methodology recommended by the Expert Group on 'Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor' (Lakdawala Committee). The Expert Group, which was constituted in September, 1989 submitted its Report to the Planning Commission in July, 1993. A full Planning Commission meeting chaired by the Prime Minister in March, 1997 accepted the recommendations of the Expert

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Group with minor modifications. Since then the estimates of poverty at national and State level are being made using the Expert Group methodology. The per capita consumption norm has been fixed at Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas. The prescribed per capita consumption expenditure limit in rural areas is then updated using State-specific cost of living indices for Agricultural Labourers (CPIAL) for rural areas. The national poverty line at 1999-2000 prices is Rs. 327.56 per capita per month in rural areas.

(e) The percentage of persons living below the poverty line in the country was 26.10 during 1999-2000, according to the 55th round of NSS Household Consumer Expenditure Survey. The corresponding figures are 27.09 and 23.62 for rural and urban areas respectively. The Planning Commission does not estimate the number of families living below poverty line.

Special package for States and farmers

†1761. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to sanction a special package for Jammu & Kasnmir, North-Eastem States and farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof separately, for each?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Government is not contemplating sanction of any special package for Jammu & Kashmir, North-Eastern States and farmers, in addition to the Reconstruction Plan for Jammu & Kashmir and development programmes for two North-Eastern States (Manipur& Assam) already announced during 2004.

(b) Question does not arise.

Identification of backward districts

†1762. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not identified the backward districts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.